Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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SUBJECT: EDITORIAL IN WASHINGTON POST: SYRIAN AID

WASHINGTON POST OF FRIDAY, AUGUST 4 CONTAINED EDITORIAL ENTITLED "435 SECRETARIES OF STATE TOO MANY". EDITORIAL ASSERTED THAT THE HOUSE HAS BEEN "MAULING" SELECTED BITS OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S FOREIGN POLICY. ARTICLE GOES ON TO DISCUSS CHILE, RHODESIA, AND SYRIAN AID PROGRAM. RELEVANT PARAGRAPH ON SYRIA READS AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN QUOTE: ON SYRIA, CONGRESSMEN SUDDENLY CUT OFF A YEAR'S WORTH OF ECONOMIC AID, OSTENSIBLY IN REPRISAL FOR THE ASSAULTS SYRIA HAS MADE ON CHRISTIANS IN LEBANON IN THE COURSE OF TRYING TO PACIFY THAT TORN COUNTRY. ONE DOES NOT HAVE TO APPROVE OF SYRIA'S LEBANON POLICY TO REALIZE THAT AN AID CUTOFF, ON WHAT IS, AFTER ALL, A SECONDARY ISSUE, MAY JEOPARDIZE THE BASIS ON WHICH THE UNITED STATES IS TRYING TO WIN SYRIAN COOPERATION IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SEARCH FOR A MIDEAST SETTLEMENT. EVEN MORE THAN ON RHODESIA, THE HOUSE MOVED ON SYRIA WITHOUT DISPLAYING THE SLIGHTEST SENSE OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE OVERALL PLAY IN THAT COUNTRY'S RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. END QUOTE. VANCE

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